

**THE LIFE HISTORY OF *EUREMA CANDIDA VIRGO* (WALLACE)  
(LEPIDOPTERA: PIERIDAE: COLIADINAE)**

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**Abstract**

The life history of *Eurema candida virgo* is described and larval food plants listed.

**Introduction**

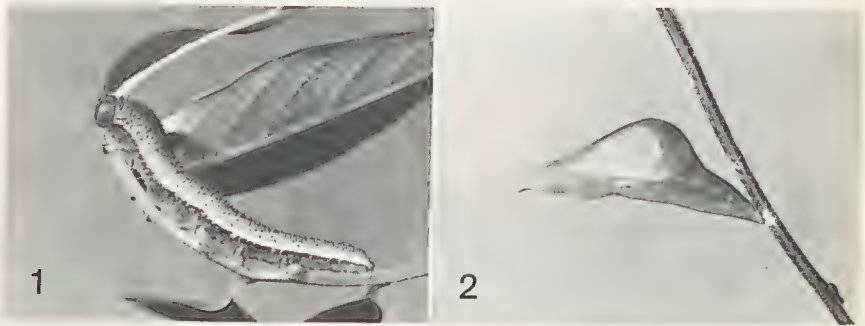
The broad-margined grass yellow, *Eurema candida virgo* is confined to rainforest, where it flies throughout the year. In Australia it is distributed from Cape York to Coen (Common and Waterhouse 1981). During a visit to Bamaga in March 1987, females were observed ovipositing on two plant species. Ova were collected and larvae raised on cuttings of these plants.

**Life history**

Food plants. *Archidendron hirsutum* Nielsen (Family Fabaceae) and *Ventilago ecorollata* von Muell. (Family Rhamnaceae)

Ova. 1.2 mm high, spindle shaped, white, shiny, smooth. First instar. Length 1.5 mm. Head round, white, smooth. Body white, later turning green, with hairs. Third instar. Length 8 mm. Head round, yellow-green, smooth, shiny, with pale hairs and black stemmata. Body green with a lateral white line above prolegs, shiny, covered in short setae that terminate in a droplet of clear, sticky, fluid.

Last instar (Fig. 1). Length 16 mm. Head round, dull green, with short blue-black hairs. Body dull green, with a white line above prolegs and transverse rows of stout, conical setae, that each terminate in a droplet of clear, sticky fluid.



**Figs. 1 and 2.** Immature stages of *Eurema candida virgo*. (1). Final instar larva; (2). Pupa.

Pupa (Fig. 2). Length 16 mm. Green, smooth with a short, pointed process anteriorly, median dorsal stripe of brown and white. Suspended by cremaster and silken girdle.

### Notes

Eggs are laid singly on new growth of the foodplants. Larval measurements were made immediately following eclosion or ecdysis. Larvae feed during the day and rest along the edge of a leaf or stem. I was unable to determine the function for the droplets of sticky fluid on the larval setae. Pupation occurs on the foodplant or nearby foliage. One individual commencing its life cycle on 20 March completed it in 18 d. (Egg 2 d, larva 9 d, pupa 7 d).

### Acknowledgment

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### Reference

COMMON, I.F.B. and WATERHOUSE, D.F. 1981. *Butterflies of Australia*. Pp. xiv + 682. Angus and Robertson, Sydney.